Rising land and flat prices

269. SHR1 S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that purchasing or constructing a new house/flat has becoming a distant dream for millions of lower and middle class people due to sky rocketing of land and flat prices in urban areas of the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly for the metros (Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata) with percentage of increase in market price of land and flats during the period; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to deal with the situation so as to facilitate the lower and middle class people's dream of owning their own house/flat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The Ministry is concerned about affordability of houses for different sections of society.

In order to address the issue of affordability of houses for all sections of society, the first urban area specific housing policy—the National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy (NUHHP), 2007 has been formulated, which has been laid on the Table of both Houses of the Parliament on 7.12.2007. The Policy seeks to set in motion a process forproviding "Affordable Housing for All" particularly for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Groups (LIG) through various types of public-private partnerships and development of various financial and operational innovations.

Apart from NUHHP, 2007, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched by the Government in the year 2005 caters for provisions of housing and basic services to urban poor in 63 specified cities and also for non-specified cities. Also a provision of Rs. 30 crores has been made in the current financial year 2007-08 to provide housing for provide interest rate subsidy scheme for loans to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Groups (LIG).

A Task Force has also been set up by this Ministry to look into various aspects of providing "Affordable Housing for AH" and recommend ways and means of enhancing accessibility of EWS/LIG groups to housing with suitable governmental support and recommend ways and means of enhancing accessibility of MIG groups to housing apart from developing innovative financial instruments for bringing flexibility in the housing market and making recommendations as to fiscal, spatial incentives for increasing supply of houses.

Urban Self Employment Programme

270. SHRIC. RAMACHANDRA1AH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POV ERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) *inter alia* aims to form thrift and credit societies as part of urban poverty alleviation measures;

(b) if so, how many societies have been formed during the last three years in the country and particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the resources mobilized and the number of poor people benefited by the societies, year-wise;

(d) whether any assistance is provided by Government to the societies;